

WE CLAIM:

1. A multi-information-character, surveillance imaging system comprising
a plural-imager, housing-contained assembly of surveillance imagers including (a)
an optical, daytime, color video imager, (b) an optical, nighttime, light-intensified, black-
5 and-white video imager, and (c) a thermal imager,
a pair of adjacent, readily co-viewable, video image display structures, one of
which is dedicated to the presentation of information derived from said thermal imager,
and other of which is selectively and changeably dedicatable to any one of said imagers,
and
10 interconnect structure, including a user-operable controller, operatively and
communicatively interconnecting said imagers and said display structures in a manner
permitting selective user switching of communication between said other display
structure and one or another of said daytime, nighttime and thermal imagers.

2. A multi-information-character, surveillance imaging method comprising providing a plural-imager, housing-contained assembly of surveillance imagers including (a) an optical, daytime, color video imager, (b) an optical, nighttime, light-intensified, black-and-white video imager, and (c) a thermal imager, additionally providing a pair of adjacent, readily co-viewable, video image display structures, one of which is dedicated to the presentation of information derived from the thermal imager, and other of which is selectively and changeably dedicatable to any one of said imagers, and operatively and controllably interconnecting such imagers and said display structures in a manner permitting selective user switching of communication between the other display structure and one or another of the daytime, nighttime and thermal imagers.

3. A plural-mode, plural-display surveillance imaging method comprising selectively creating data streams representing respective imagery derived by plural, different-mode imagers, including (a) a daytime, color, video imager, (b) a nighttime, black-and-white, light-intensified video imager, and (c) a thermal imager, and selectively causing the presentations, both in time-simultaneity and in time-succession, on a pair of adjacent, co-viewable display devices, of different selected comparative combinations of associated, different-mode visual images based upon such respective imagery data streams.

4. A surveillance imaging method comprising

selectively acquiring plural-mode, comparable-scene surveillance imagery data, including daytime color imagery data, intensified-light nighttime imagery data, and thermal imagery data, and

5 enabling, for simultaneous viewing, the selective presentation of dual-mode imagery based upon such data, where such presentation includes visual pairing of (a) daytime and thermal imagery, and (b) nighttime, light-intensified and thermal imagery.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said acquiring is performed utilizing

10 plural imagers, including (a) a daytime, color video imager, (b) a nighttime, light-intensified video imager, and (c) a thermal imager, all of which imagers include respective imaging axes, all of which axes are bore-sight aligned at infinity.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the acquiring performance of the

15 nighttime imager includes gathering and intensifying night scene data to generate a green-spectrum derivative, and converting that derivative to a black-and-white video signal sub-derivative .